

Alaska CACFP Food Substitutions due to Disability, Allergy, Religion or Parent Preference Fact Sheet

- 1) When a child has a medical or religious reason for needing food substitutions the Center needs to have a medical or religious statement on file.
 - a. Child with disability - Center **MUST** have statement signed by a physician on file and provide all substitutions indicated in this statement. If the disability makes the child unable to have all CACFP components that meet the CACFP meal pattern then the Center can still claim the meal by following the guidelines from the medical authority that are listed on the medical statement
 - b. Child with allergy or religious reason – Center **MUST** have medical statement on file and has the option to substitute.
 - i. If center substitutes within the same component group then the meal is claimable.
 - ii. If parent brings in the substitute **ITEM** within the same component group that the child is allergic to, then the center can claim the meal. If the child is allergic to many items on the menu the parent can sub more than one item (within the same component groups), but the center **MUST** serve at least one item in order to claim the meal.
 - iii. In order for the center to claim the meal the child must be served all components to meet the CACFP meal pattern. (this is different than with a disability)
- 2) For parent preference - Centers can make substitutions within the meal pattern and can claim the meal.
 - a. Center should have a statement on file from parent as to why they are substituting and Center **MUST** supply the substitutions in order to claim the meal
 - i. If parent provides the substitutions the center **MAY NOT** claim the meal
 - ii. The parent’s substitutions **MUST** be within the CACFP meal pattern per licensing regulations – even though the center cannot claim the meal
- 3) Milk has different requirements:
 - a. Center needs a medical statement/parent statement/religious statement on file for each child who is receiving a milk substitution
 - b. Center or parent can make the substitution and center can claim meal – as long as the milk substitution is one of the three options that meet the nutritional equivalent to cow’s milk (Pacific Ultra Soy, 8th Continent Soy, or Pearl Soy)
 - c. If non-creditable milk is served then Center **MAY NOT** claim the meal
 - d. Any **cow’s milk** that is within the guidelines (non-fat, 1% for 2 years and older) is creditable if it is pasteurized – so organic would be acceptable. The lactose free milks in the proper fat content are also acceptable.
 - e. Goat’s milk is no longer an acceptable milk - It is now treated as a milk substitute and must meet both the milk fat requirement and the nutritional equivalent to cow’s milk. (There is no goat milk that currently meets these requirements)